

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009431

43

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00

STR-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 RSC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

NEA-09 /067 R

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Z 151538Z JAN 75 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW FLASH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, US

SUBJECT: COMMENT ON EFFECT OF TRADE AGREEMENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. NEWS MEDIA HERE ARE CARRYING STORIES FROM MOSCOW,
ATTRIBUTED VARIOUSLY TO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS, US OFFICIALS,
AND US TRADE OFFICIALS, DISCUSSING IMPACT OF RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CBS BROADCAST BY
RICHARD ROTH ON THIS SUBJECT:

QUOTE U.S. OFFICIALS HERE SAY THE RUSSIANS COULD HAVE
TURNED DOWN THE CREDITS AND MOST FAVORITE NATION STATUS,
OFFERED BY THE NEW TRADE LAW, WITHOUT REPUDIATING THE
1972 TRADE AGREEMENT. THAT WOULD HAVE TAKEN THEM OFF THE
HOOK ON JEWISH EMMIGRATION WITHOUT UPSETTING THE BASIC
TRADE ACCORD WITH THE U.S. THE FACT THAT THEY CHOSE
TO CANCEL THAT ACCORD MAY HAVE A WIDE AFFECT. IT MAY
SAVE THE RUSSIANS SOME SEVEN HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS
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PAGE 02 STATE 009431

IN WORLD WAR TWO DEBTS TO THE U.S., AND IT MAY AFFECT

THE POSITION OF AMERICAN FIRMS WITH OFFICES HERE, THOSE OFFICES, FOURTEEN OF THEM RIGHT NOW, WERE OPENED AS A RESULT OF THE 1972 AGREEMENT. THE U.S. EMBASSY'S COMMERCIAL OFFICE WAS ALSO OPENED BY THAT AGREEMENT AND WHILE EXPERTS HERE SAY TRADE WITH THE U.S. IS NOT ABOUT TO COME TO A HALT THE FUTURE OF THAT OFFICE MAY ALSO BE IN DOUBT. THE GREATEST DOUBT THOUGH IS AMONG THE ESTIMATED TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND RUSSIAN JEWS WHO HAD HOPED WASHINGTON'S INFLUENCE WOULD EASE SOVIET EMMIGRATION

POLICIES, THAT HOPE IS GONE NOW AND SAKHAROV, THIS COUNTRY'S LEADING HUMAN RIGHTS SPOKESMAN, SAID TODAY, THE 'NEWS IS VERY BAD'. END QUOTE

2. EMBASSY SHOULD BE GUIDED EXCLUSIVELY BY SECRETARY'S STATEMENT JANUARY 14 AND HIS ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS, AND SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT ENGAGE IN SPECULATION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TRADE LAW, MFN, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE009431
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MGARRISON:MB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750015-0681
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750149/aaaabrdw.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENT ON EFFECT OF TRADE AGREEMENT DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, US, UR
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006